PTO/SB/21 (02-04)

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Group Art Unit: 2143

Examiner: England

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Allen

Application No.: 09/511,777

Filed: 02/24/2000

Title: Encoding Addresses in a Communication

System

Attorney Docket No.: 2204/A14 120-052

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of July 20, 2004, please amend this application as follows:

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for representing a plurality of addresses in an address table in a communication system, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying commonality between the plurality of addresses;

selecting at least one regular expression character having a predetermined meaning which represents the identified commonality between the at least one character of each addresses in the plurality of addresses;

generating a single address that represents the plurality of addresses by inserting the selected at least one regular expression character in place of the at least one corresponding character of the plurality of addresses, thereby generating a group address; and